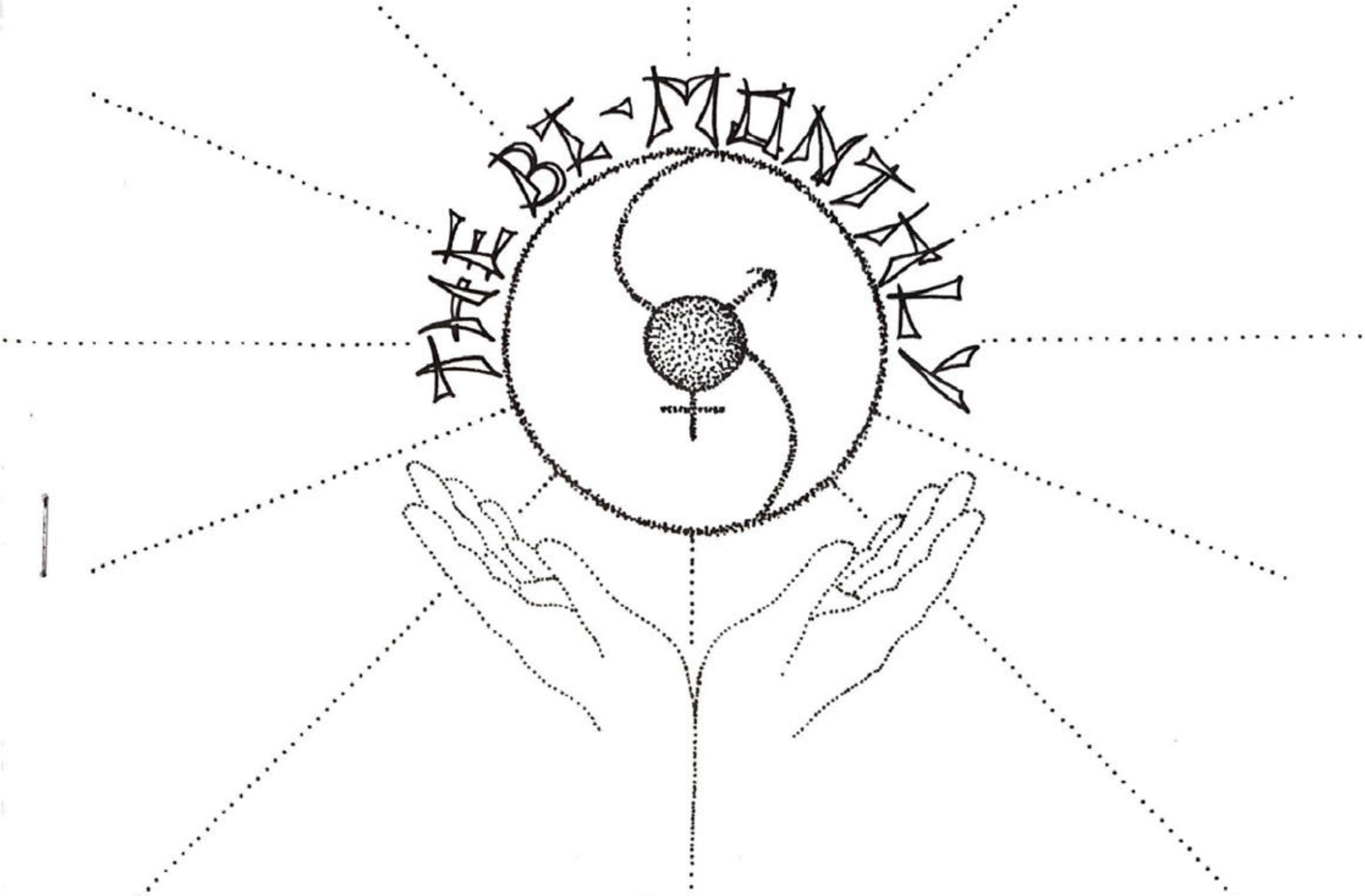
THE BI-MONTHLY



NO.5

OCTOBER

HEALING & ASSERTION
ANDROGYNY
GUILT

THE NEWSLETTER FOR BISEXUALS

50p

NOW WE ARE 5

The BiMONTHLY editorial collective would like to thank anybody who has contributed or helped in any way and enabled us to get this far. Keep your ideas cpming in! We would like to encourage a forum for debate and so expressly encourage alternative viewpoints. We would also like to encourage women to contribute. Articles, views, letters, etc can be given to any member of the collective or sent to

BM/BI LONDON WC1N 3XX.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: Friday, 23rd November.

The contributors this issue:

Ray Edwards, Richard Sterne, Leigh-Anne gray, Matthew Milne, Jo Cunningham, John, David Burkle.

The ed. collective:
Julia Hobday, Jo Cunningham, Matt Milne,
Rachel O'Connor, James Lewis.

Individual articles in the BiMONTHLY do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the collective.

Healing and Assertion.

These subjects are both ways of dealing with self-defeating behaviour. Healing helps you reset internal energy states to facilitate full body and mind functioning. The practice of assertion gets you what you want for yourself.

In the Healing group on September 11th about 15 of us experienced the energy used in Healing (Spiritual healing or laying-on-of-hands) and we discovered that nearly everyone has the latent ability to transfer energy to someone else and thus stimulate self-healing in that person.

Of course not everyone can be healed. It is a necessary preliminary that there should be strong empathy between the persons concerned and particularly that the person to receive the energy is unreservedly willing to do so. Trust is all important.

Aches and pains, tizzy minds, moping over lovers and lots more dis-eases respond well to hands-on Healing. And if it works for you, tell your friends.

We will be dealing with assertion in December, just in time to help you to ask for the Christmas present you want more than anything in the world.

Assertion is only a little dependant on empathy and trust. When you are assertive you communicate as an adult and without child whining or parental ought's and should's. When you are assertive you have the highest chance of getting what you want.

If you are aggressive you minimise your chances of success and use a maximum of energy. If you are shy nobody cares and nobody gives you anything because you don't ask.

In the world of sexual relationships happy, empathetic positive, assertive people have fun whilst aggressive and shy people produce unstable master - slave relationships.

Practicing assertion and changing aggressive or shy behaviour to assertive behaviour can be great fun in a group. I hope you will join me on tuesday December 4th at Heavan and help yourself to realise some of your dreams.

Ray Edwards

P.S. You can catch me almost anywhere, at anytime and ask for symptom relief Healing and/or practice in being assertive. You only need to be assertive and ask. For full professional Healing and/or Psychotherapy phone 01-340 3924.

ĂNDRŎ'GY̆NOUS

A few months ago the topic of Androgyny was discussed at a London Bisexual Group Meeting, led by Rachel. At the time Rachel and I disagreed on our individual interpretation of the word.
My view was and still is that androgyny is a physical condition and not a mental one. That to be androgynous one had to be equally of each gender physically.
Yet again in her article in the last issue of The Bi-Monthly takes an incorrect and misleading interpretation of the word.
Androgyny has nothing to do with what we wear. Cross-dressing is transvestism, a variable state dependant on social and environmental circumstances. This is not to imply that transvestites do not have strong feelings on sexual discrimination and gender stereotyping. Also I appreciate that any given mental state may have physical repercussions and vice versa.
The point of this letter is by no means to denegrate Rachel. On the contrary, she works damned hard for the Group. It isto make the point that if we do not use the English language carefully and correctly we will confuse each other within our tightknit community and totally bewilder anyone outside of it. How can we expect people to understand us if we are incapable ofusing the correct terminology to describe ourselves.
For the record I enclose the entry in the Consise Oxford English Dictionary .

Yours truly
David
London SW16.

"androgyne a. & n Hermaphrodite (person).
androgynous a Hermaphrodite "

I saw David of SW16's letter about androgyny when it arrived in the Post Room and rushed for my dictionary. (Is he right or not? To save all our readers having to do the same here's what I found).

Chambers Twentieth Century says of androgynous "having the characteristics of both male and female in one individual".
Then to June Singer's classic work Androgyny which says inside the front cover "Scientists and mystics throughout history have realised that every human being is the carrier of complementary life energies. Given a variety of names - yin and yang, poetic and rational, left-handed and right-handed, emotional and intellectual - these energies interact in everyone, regardless of sex. Androgyny involves recognising the eternal flux of these opposing energies within us.
In this timely, wide-ranging book, June Singer describes how conciousness of our own androgyny can lead to a new sense of personal unity within the larger universe. On a journey that takes us through Tao, Gnosticism, the Kabbalah, Alchemy, Astrology, Tibetan Tantra,

→→

WHO?

Did you know that the World Health Organisation (WHO) section of the United Nations, classifies homosexuality as a disease? Each decade or so the listing - International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is reconsidered. Now is the time for pressure to be exerted to get it altered; then officially we shall cease to be ill. Each WHO member state can influence this matter but especiallythose that have direct representation on the ICD pamel. This country does.

You may wonder why ICD matters? Apart from the insult it offers to lesbians, gays and bisexuals it is used in evidence to justify repressive attitudes and postures by our enemies. As well it is referred to by inexperienced bodies who may be haven't had to attend to the matter before, perhaps newer countries drawing up legislation. The governments of Argentina, china and Cuba at least have quoted it to justify themselves.

Legislators even in old established and sophisticated countries such as ours are influenced by the ICD and certainly if we could get it changed next time round in the late 80's that would deprive both the anti-homosexuals and the merely ignorant of rational justification for actions harmful to us.

In the USA the American Psychiatric Association in a celebrated desicion changed their official attitude and classification some years ago. Since then "treatments" of homosexuality to change orientation have fallen away.

The change then was brought about by protest and also the information on the subject being brought to the attention of the APA.

We could help law reform here by writing to Mr Alderson, Chief Medical Statistitian, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JB

MICHAEL BROWN

NEWS.NEWS.NEWS

The ILEA have set up a special project on relationships and sexuality which will look at how homosexuality is being portrayed in schools. They want to make available to schools information which already exists, but which schools don't know about. They are also interested in writing by young people- sources of this writing are still being sought. They are discussing the possibility of producing a video similar to the prize winning 'Framed Youth' video, which would have less 'controversial' language, ie swearing, and which would be shorter to allow time for discussion in the classroom. The project has subscribed to BIMONTHLY.

→ →

Kundalini Yoga, and the works of Plato, Freud and Jung, she shows how crucial has been the awareness of the androgynous soul to all those who inquire into the mysteries of human nature. She also points out the interplay of opposing energies in modern science, from molecular biology to astrophysics.

One of the most thorough investigations on the subject inthe current literature, Androgyny is full of psychological and spiritual insights. It shows how a person can at once embrace complementary and contradictory attitudes towards sex and gender.

In conclusion, June Singer proposes a range of choices by which people can identify themselves, secure that the masculine/feminine interaction within each individual is not only normal but the dynamic factor in their wholeness."

And the Joy of Gay Sex which states;" Originally androgyny was interchangeable with hermaphroditism, the oddity of having the sexual organs of both sexes in the body. Now androgyny has come to mean the adoption of social behaviour that is not strictly masculine or feminine according to the old role definitions. An attempt to escape from gender-identified role playing, androgyny does not necessarily determine sexual behaviour.....(sic)"

So I'm satisfied that its no longer correct to define androgyny specifically as being equally of each gender physically. language is a living thing after all. Surely 'bisexual' hasn't always been used to mean'attracted sexually to both sexes'; in my dictionary it also is defined as 'hermaphrodite'. We bisexuals of all people, should acknowledge the grey areas, and accept people as they wish to define themselves regardless of what they are wearing. (In spite of which I think Rachel is more androgynous in trousers!)*

With love to you all
David Burkle

* (Hear, hear! Eds.)

BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

A 'Politics of Bisexuality' conference is expected to take place later in the year, most likely in London. Provisionally, discussions are planned in three main areas: 'Defining Bisexuality', 'Bisexuality and Political Movements', and 'Expression and Image'. Discussion papers are being sought before the event. More details from

BM/BI, London WC1N 3XX.

INTER - INSULAR CONFERENCE

BELFAST - 9 November to 11 November 1984

Sponsored by the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association

Dear Friend(s)

The Eastern Health and Social Services Board, this region's largest employer, recently asked the relevant Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, Chris Patten MP, for the right to prohibit the employment of homosexual women and men in "... direct caring roles ...", by which was meant the care of children and young persons, the elderly and the mentally incapacitated.

This moral atrocity is a direct result of the 'Kincora' pseudo-scandal. It is being vigorously opposed by the NI Gay Rights Association, and the trade unions involved.

The 1967 Sexual Offences Act now covers the whole of the United Kingdom, having been extended to Northern Ireland in 1982. In the Republic of Ireland, David Norris of the National Gay Federation is likely, soon, to win his case at the European Court of Human Rights.

Where do we go from here?

We in the NIGRA have decided to host a Conference to consolidate the Gay movement and to devise a coherent programme of action in the fields of law reform and employment protection. It will be open to all Gays (ie lesbians, male homosexuals and bisexuals), organisations and individuals throughout these islands - and beyond.

Our Association's policy at present is to promote a UK wide direct-membership organisation to demand law reform and Gay liberty. This group would also campaign for the abolition of the '67 Act and all the laws currently governing sexual activity. These would be replaced with a system of laws designed to prevent nonconsensual sexual behaviour without regard or reference to specific sexual orientation(s).

With the imminent revision of the Republic of Ireland's laws, discussion has begun on what will replace them. It is intended that there will be keynote speakers from Ireland and from Great Britain on law reform.

The Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association will provide an introduction on employment and the Social Services.

The Conference will be held at the Edward Carpenter Centre, 8 Long Lane, BELFAST, from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November 1984.

Registration Fees:	£5.00 (£6.00IR) waged £2.50 (£3.00IR) unwaged.

Free accommodation for the first 50 people to send registration and fees. Reception/Party - Friday night (Carpenter Centre) - free admission to Disco on Saturday night.

Contact Numbers are -	Belfast 664111 (any evening) Belfast 226117 (Mon - Wed, 7.30 to 10.00 pm)

RETURN TO: Nigra Conference, c/o PO Box 44, BELFAST, BT1 1SH

I enclose £____.____ registration fee(s) for _________ delegate(s).

Accommodation YES/NO ?
Disabled YES/NO ?
VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/OMNIVORE ?

NAME: ______________________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________

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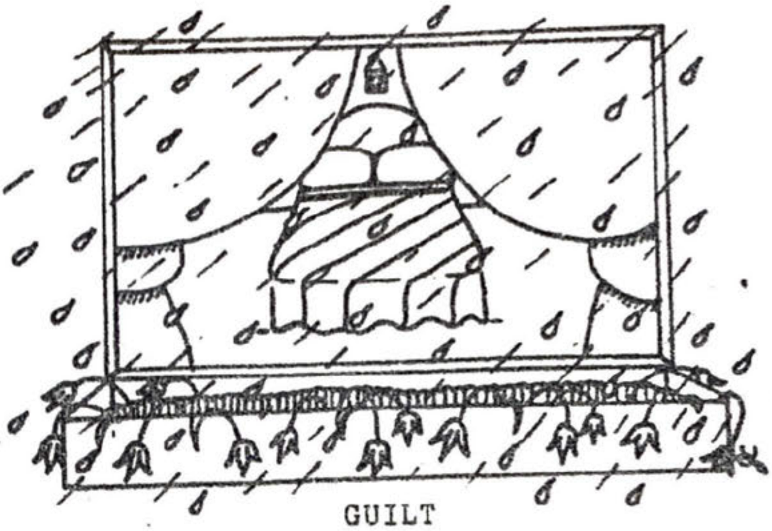
(Print)



GUILT

By Leigh-Anne Gray

The rain is drizzling outside my bedroom window, tapping on the cold, hard glass. My room is warm, a warm cosy nest, protecting me from the harsh rain, the cruel outside.

I do think the rain is cruel. It comes thrashing down from the clouds, crashing into the earth, drowning plants and tiny creatures alike, with no thought, no care.

I am warm and cosy, like my room. Ten minutes ago I was cold. I was outside, being soaked like the plants and insects. I was picking flowers, you see, when the heavens opened, and I had to run in quite quickly. I had a quick bath, changed from my jeans into my favourite dress, and came upstairs,to my room.

So here I am, writing this diary entry in the warm. Sitting on the wide, wide windowsill, gazing at the raindrops splashing against the window.

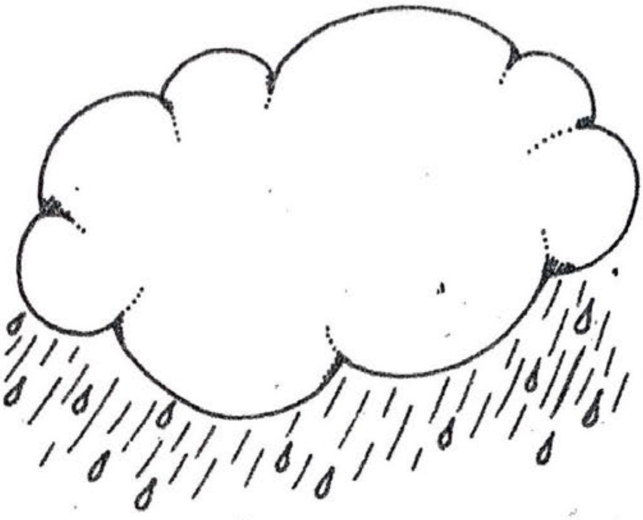
In this velvet flowered dress that reaches my calves when I am standing, with my long, long, curly dark hair, my very pretty face (vain I may be, but at least I'm honest) I suppose I'm all my parents wanted in a daughter. I'm not very intelligent, I don't even know my tables, but that doesn't really matter to me. I got a few O Levels, but I'm not career motivated. I'm more interested in dreaming. Writing in this big red book. Let my brother be the intelligent child in our family, it's more important to him.

I glance down to my feet. Bare, half covered by the dress, the crimson polish glints in the light. Thunder rumbles in the far away sky. I curl my pink toes under my dress. I hate storms. They frighten me. Oh dear, it was so pleasant up here a few minutes ago, and now the room has darkened and I don't feel so safe. The lightening will start any minute. I move to my bed, not daring to stay gazing out of the window any longer.

I pull the blankets back and climb into the bed, cover myself with the sheet. I feel warm again, try to forget the noise outsid

Writing in this book, my comfortable listener, my fears fade away. I feel relaxed again. I begin to think of the reason why I came up here to be alone. The warm bed has reminded me...

I am not really the perfect daughter my parents think I am at all. Not at all.



It was thundering last weekend. Saturday night, to be precise. I was staying with a friend. Claire Graham, Oh God, the guilt is starting to creep in again...every time I think of Claire...guilt creeps in...

We didn't do anything wrong. Surely? All she did was comfort me when I was scared of the noise. Called me a baby at first, but in a jokey way.

"Don't be a baby Suzanne, hiding under the bedclothes because of a bit of bad weather."

It was late, about ten-thirty. We had come to bed because we'd been out all day, well, shopping to be exact. Nothing that exciting. But shopping for clothes is quite nice, isn't it? Especially if you're with a friend.

So we were tired when we got to bed. Would have gone straight to sleep too, if the storm hadn't started.

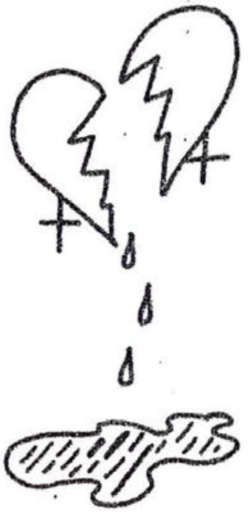
Oh, God... What would mum and dad say if they knew what happened that night? I am such an honest person...I feel like I am keeping a terrible secret from everyone.

But all I've done is love someone, so intensely I didn't think it was possible, I fell in love with my best friend last week. What do I do about it?

She told me she wished she was a boy, everything would be so much easier then.

Oh, dear...I've smudged the ink. It's funny, I didn't even notice I was crying.

Last week I felt so marvelous I didn't think I'd ever be sad again. But all I've done is pave the way for a lifetime of guilt...GUILT, GUILT, GUILT, GUILT, GUILT, Oh God why me?



BOOKS

BARRY & ALICE, portrait of a bisexual marriage
by Barry Kohn & Alice Matusow
pub. Prentice-Hall , New Jersey 1980.

As far as I know this book has never been for sale in this country. I only learned of its existence earlier this year and recently obtained a copy. I wish I'd found it four, or twenty four years ago. I would reccomend it to anyone who might want to make a long term relationship work, whether either, or neither or both parties are or maybe bisexual. Unfortunately it may not be available much longer.

In the words of the sleeve:

"Presenting an intimate, detailed portrait of their relationship, they talk about the important role bisexuality has come to play in their marriage, describing with candour and sensitivity their personal lives and life-style - this is a marriage that began not only with a traditional wedding ceremony, but with traditional ideas of faithfulness and heterosexuality as well."

People all around us are still making commitments to each other and marrying on the basis of these traditional myths, because they are given nothing more realistic to go on. We still fall for the old line that if someone really loves us they should never want to have a relationship with anyone else.
The pain & confusion experienced in growing to value ourselves for ourselves rather than because of the love somebody else feels for us (initially so reassuring) often leads people to give up on a relationship, once the going gets tough.
This book describes both the pain and the rewards in not giving up, honestly and lovingly. Only at one point, when they are describing their lifestyle, did a middle class American self-assurance seem just too good to be true, but this was quickly dispelled when they moved on to discuss our ultimate aloneness, jealousy and fighting in a relationship - part of everyone's experience. One omission was any comment about problems othe friends and lovers, without committed relationships, may have experienced when confronted with their committment to each other, but overall I found it an encouraging and affirming book.

David Burkle

We have managed to obtain a copy for the LBG library - but would like more copies if anyone is going to the ststes and can still find one.

A "POLITICS OF BISEXUALITY" CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE IN LONDON IN DECEMBER.

Discussions are planned in three main areas:

1. Defining Bisexuality
2. Bisexuality in political movements
3. Expression and image

Discussion papers are being sought before the event. More details from BM/BI, London WC1N 3XX.

The Conference will be held in The Factory Community Project,
107 Matthias Road, London N. 16.

Saturday/Sunday, 8th/9th December from 10 am on both days.

Registration fee £1 in advance for both days or £1 on the door per day.

Some crash-pad accommodation available.

@@@ THE PROOF @@@
poems by Richard Sterne.

This is a book for men. It explores the conditioning that men go through and in doing so perpetuates male self-centeredness and has little to say for women. All the poems criticise objectification of women, by describing them as objects and then saying 'I reject this view', but at this point women leave the scene and men(once again) take over. With their worries, their lives, their loves. OK so there is a lot of angst, but still me,me,me,me. If you are going to explore male relationships then at least you could stop and think about the people, women & men, you relate to.

As a gay-identified man having gay relationships I can see how easily this happens, but I think it is time to explore not only my own feelings but those of the people I meet.

This is definitely an interesting book, but it is difficult to relate to it unless you are willing to accept it's point of view and all the imagery that goes with it.

Perhaps it's just a little personal. I felt trapped it the imagery; all powerful stuff. I wonder what you' d think???

In exploring the alienation of the author it creates an alienation all of it's own. For anyone who hasn't been through these experiences would just feel lost.

Smashed, bowed down, unneeded, struggling.

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ideas

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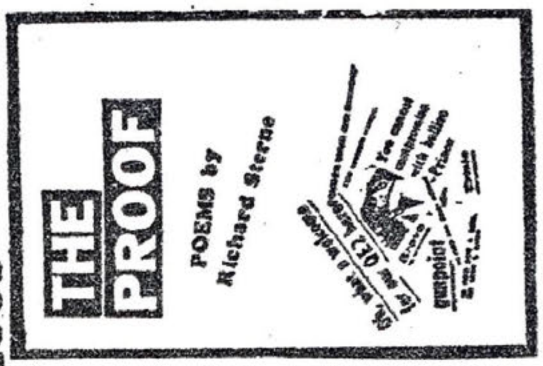
THE
PROOF
POEMS by
Richard Sterne

touch publications
9 Redan Street
Ipswich Suffolk

Tulips & Leather

Stallions 8pm on a Sunday night. I ttell my friends I'm off to Amsterdam for a holiday. "Can I come too?" "You'd better book ahead at the clinic" Don't smoke any drugs!" "Make sure you smoke lots of drugs". "Look out for the Night Thermos". The useful ideas. The general feeling is that Amsterdam is a Good Place.

So off to meet a friend at Victoria Coach Station, pick up our tickets at the Miracle Bus Company (£28 return). Total chaos rules at Victoria - inspectors dash about restoring orders with cryptic radion messages. Finally, on time as always, we lave LOndon.

The trip to London takes two hours. Brightly lit petrol stations seem unreal in the black night - oases in the desert. We board the boat (or is it a ship?) and after a brief inspection adjourn to the bar, quite the best place to enjoy a sea trip. We sample a bottle of Bubbly (courtesy of the Duty Free Shop) on the prow of the ship (or is it a boat?) to toast our holiday. Back in the bar the combination of strange and wonderful liquers a nd lagers and cigars and Champagne produce an awfully decadent feeling.

By 7am this has given way to anawfully hung over feeling. We file back onto the coach. The others taking advantage of the cheap run are a mixed lot, mainly punks and student types (non noticed my pink triangle badge) with some ageing hippies and a few Turks.

Belgium first and then through the morning to Holland, and finally Amsterdam just fourteen hours after leving the tea dance. We emerge/fall out of the coach by the central railway/Bus station and after a stagger across town the hotel is found. This was thanks to a computerised national booking centre through which you can specify dates, locations and places with just one phone call. The number is obtainable from the Dutch Embassy Tourist Bureau. Gay Travel Agents like Uranian Travel and Man Around Town offer package trips including a flight so they can be expensive.

Once installed in the hotel and after a rest it was time to sample the Scene. This differed from London's in a number of ways. The bars a re smaller and more intimate, more plush and comfortable than their LOndon brothers. We went out to the Kerkstraat near the Leidseplein where there were almost a dozen gay venues ranging from a men only sex shop (featuring several items whose purpose could only be guessed at) through some gay bars and clubs to the Night Thermos (more about this later).

We went into a very pleasant bar called Route 66 whose owner, Jan, spoke excellent English as do most of the Dutch. He said that often gay Amsterdammers go to straight bars and clubs. The gay scene is not so separated from the mainstream of nightlife in general. We spoke with some American tourists, one of whom - a very camp individual who was studying a degree in Television scriptwriting at New York University. He told us about the AIDS scare in the USA and the movement towards "safe sex". It was very pleasant to sit in a bar chatting amd smoking (certain substances not legal here) drinking with gay men of different nationalities. It seemed very civilised and nice not to have the UK's silly licensing laws to contend with.

The Kerkstaat is one of the concentrations of gay places in town. These include the Club Lord and the Bronx sex shop/Cinema, and the Aero hotel and bar. The latter is recommended. All the sex shops have comprehensive gay sections and sell a selection of pocket gay guides to the city.

There are some establishments which would be illegal in the UK including a male brothel and a number of rent boy palaces. Then there are the two Thermos Bath Houses. These both have very nondescript entra nces but once inside it's like Aladdin's Cave. Both a very smart and modern Health spas (men only, though I'm told there are some womens saunas that are open all night. With a selection of saunas, steam rooms, Jaccuzzis, plunge pools, video rooms, bars, cafes, television rooms and crusing afeas. These are spread over three floors. The crusing areas in both are not for the timid. The day Thermos (Raamstraat 33, tel 239 158) is open from 12 noon till 11pm. The Night Thermos (Kerkstraat 58-60, tel 234 936) from 11pm to 8am. Thus it's possible for the tourist to stay the night in one of the many lockable cubicles in the crusing area.

A few general tips for the would-be visitor. A group of clip joints advertse themselves as Gay Information Centres, but are more into ripping off tourists. The streets are a little safer than in London, but some parts of the town (especially the red light areas) are full of junkies - well worth avioding after dark.

All in all Amsterdam is well worth a visit. It shows a liberal country can work and unfortunately reminds us of the UK's Dickensian attitudes to gays.

Matt.

TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER

There will be a SPECIAL WORKSHOP on

MAKING RELATIONSHIPS LAST

One of a series of workshops which we plan to hold, to which we invite people who are either married or have a long term relationship.

We hope this will provide a good opportunity to bring your partner who might not be bisexual but who would benefit from meeting others in a similar situation.

C. STEVENS

FROM OUR FRENCH CORRESPONDENT

Dear All,

Here's another holiday report on our day out to Boulogne. I as a lovely day . We met at 9am at the Apollo Victoria where we caught our train. We had a great train journey- it wasn't as packed as I had expected. Four others showed up for the trip- Ian, Richard, Max and Peter. We got the boat from Folkestone to France. It was a calm journey across the channel- I was so glad because my stomach was not too well after TWO parties the previous night.

During the trip we all went seperate ways. I stayed with Ian & we lay on the deck trying to catch the sun. After a few hours we arrived in Boulogne. Very beautiful it looked as we arrived. We landed and decided to split into two groups. Four of us decided to look round the town, while Max wanted to go on the beach. I didn't know what an attractive town Boulogne was. It has some beautiful buildings. We walked along the ramparts, the wall surrounding the old town. Ian & I walked hand in hand as we didn't think the French would mind. We were wrong! Not that anyone shouted abuse (we wouldn't have understood, anyway!) but they did smirk and stare. They were OK,considering, but one middle-aged man was so shocked as we passed , his mouth was wide open & he was staring as if he had seen a ghost! We had arranged to meet later for a meal. When we got to our rendevous Max was nowhere to be found. We waited ages but he didn't turn up so we found a cheapish restaurant, raiding the nearest wine shop. I bought a bottle for about 70p! Which was very good. I also got some cheese and swiss chocolates. Then Ian said that the cheese was swiss and I thought What a fool! He had bought 5 bottles of wine.

When we found our restaurant we had a good meal. I was worried as to how to order the meal as I only got grade 3 CSE French. Luck came in the form of Richard who spoke fluent French. We had a starter, Steak & chips (french style) and Ice Cream for about £ 4.00. We then had about 40 mins. to catch the boat. We had to walk quite fast across the town, full up & tired. We caught the boat with 5 minutes to spare, and we weren't the last as two drunken english men staggered onto the boat after us. On the way back the sun was starting to set & the sky was lovely. I sat on deck with Ian, just like a scene from one of those 40's films!! We found Max who had got the time wrong earlier! We then caught the train back to Victoria, feeling very sleepy. We all wended our way back home. A lovely day which I'll remember for a long time. Thanks to Ian, Richard, Max & Peter for making it an enjoyable day.

Love, John.

LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP

Programme SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1984:

September

Tue 25 Sex Role Stereotypes RACHEL

October

Tue 2 Play Reading RICHARD
+'The bluffers' guide to dance' JULES
Sun 7 Tea dance @ Stallions
a chance to practice the skills learnt on Tuesday!
9 * CONCERT PARTY see JULES
Tue 16 WM Stereotypes DOROTHY + SPECIAL WORKSHOP
Sun 21 * Ice Skating @ Queens 14 00 - 17 00
Tue 23 L.L.G.C. speaker
30 Video to be announced

November

Sun 4 Tea dance @ Stallions
Tue 6 M 'Aspects of Loving' DAVID
13 M Pre - planning discussion (see Sun)
BRING ALONG YOUR IDEAS & CRITICISMS
Sun 18 * PLANNING MEETING @ CRIS'S
Tue 20 W G.L.C. Womens' Committee speaker
Fri 23 Bi MONTHLY Copy Date JULES
Tue 27 Gay History MICHAEL
+ Non - competitive Games. DAVID B.

December

Sun 2 Tea dance @ Stallions
Tue 4 M Assertiveness Workshop RAY
11 M 'Tarot, gateway to the inner self' WALTER
+ Julian Meldrum of the Hall Carpenter Archives
Sun 16 * Gay carol Service @ St Botolph's Aldgate 18 00
Tue 18 PARTY NIGHT + Video

* = Special Event. Please support!
M = Massage Workshop ARTHUR
W = Womens' evenings. (men can attend)

There will be a personal group every Tue.

ALL TUESDAY MEETINGS @ HEAVEN UNDER THE ARCHES VILLIERS ST
Discussions start 20 30. (All plans subject to alteration)

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I am currently preparing a series of articles on different, seldom touched on sections of gay life. I was wondering if members of the Bisexual Group would consent to interviews concerning this matter. The personal insight afforded by such interviews would be invaluable. Needless to say, confidentiality would be respected should it be requested.

Should further info. be needed please feel free to call me at the above number,

Yours sincerely
JOHN LYTTLE

JOHN LYTTLE is a freelance journalist who often writes articles in the gay press. He can be contacted at:

18 Alderly House Albion Ave. SW8 Tel (01) 627 1771

Dear friends,

Thank you for sending us your press release about the Bi - Monthly. I've enclosed a subscription for a year's issues. At the same time, here are our thoughts on issue 1.

In common with much writing by/on bisexuals, we thought it was very apologetic. We realise that many people - including the GYM working group - have trouble in being at ease with bisexual people and so some 'justification' might be seen as necessary, but we don't see any anger or conviction in the writing.

We looked in vain for splits and factions in the group - many lesbian and gay male groups, even by Issue 1 of their newsletter, quickly find differences of direction among the women, young people, black + ethnic minority members, pedofiles, disabled members... Perhaps this is not a feature of the LBG, but it gave the impression of 'cosiness', 'complacency'; don't you have anything to argue about? Perhaps we were looking for some news of discussions you've had in your meetings.

We have to take issue with David Burkle (p.4) who writes that Heaven 'is a safe & OK place for women to be'

Heaven is full of sexist, ageist, woman-hating, reactionary men. Many GYM members would discourage men from going to Heaven, much less women. Also, we find the idea of a male-specific enterprise 'allowing' women in on certain nights patronising and objectionable. And we find Heaven's fetishising of young men nauseous.

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On page 5, John tells us to be on our guard about 'all those labels' GYM happens to be-lieve that the labels 'lesbian' and 'gay male' are politically important; we have to define ourselves in a way that seperates us from heterosexuals. We think it is smug and naive to discuss those labels as if we can all co-exist'happily wtih straights who want to destroy us. We take the view that bisexuals ought to define themselves as lesbians and gay men: we don't at all underestimate prejudice against bisexuals, but a lot of the hostility comes from people who think that bisexuals are hesitant about accepting their lesbian/gay side; and are resisting it. No-one denies bisexuals their heterosexual component (??? HUH ??? ed.) , so why label yourselves in a way that emphasises it? It is the lesbian/gay part that needs to develop.

More moans, this time on John Barker's artcle (p.9). He seems to be saying that (1) sexuality is an adult perogative, and (2) that sexual orientation is to some extent fixed by the way we percieved our parents. (In any case, we're not taught to view both parents equally. We're very much indoctrinated with gender-role ideas from an early age.) On paragraph 5 of this article: I don't think I'd find many lesbians who'd agree that it's easier for ♀♀ to show affection for each other. On the whole, women are made to see their sexuality only in terms of what men do to them- masturbating in vaginas.

On page 11, Maggie French maintains that women needn't lose their autonomy in relationships with men. We feel that all relationships necessitate a loss of autonomy- whatever the sex or sexuality of the partners. It's just a question of the extent to which you renounce self-determination.

Anyway, enough of our whingeing. We would have liked to see more polemic- the development of bi-liberation arguments.

We think we should think about the links between LBG and GYM- if any of your members (under 26) are interested in GYM , we can send information. Similarily, we'll refer people onto you if they really can't abide the anarchist conspiracy that permeates GYM.

Lots of luv,

JEFF VERNAN GYM working group.

G.Y.M. can be contacted at
BM/GYM LONDON WC1N 3XX.
Membership limited to lesbians & gay men under 26.

PERSONAL.

LBG Will pay original price for copies of THE BISEXUAL OPTION by Fred Klein and VIEW FROM ANOTHER CLOSET by Janet Bode.

Married lesbians, gays & bisexuals group meets at 'The Coach & Horses' Chiswick High Road, LONDON W4. Every Friday for chats & drinks.
8:00 pm Info from Bernard on (01) 847 1192.

HELLO! I am a bisexual man seeking bisexual male & female penfriends. Box 0501
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Have YOU still got unawnsered questions about your sexuality?
Have you questioned stereotypes?
Have you questioned your conditioning?
Does lack of confidence hold back your relationships??

THESE QUESTIONS AND MANY MORE ARE CONFUSING ME TOO, BUT LIKE YOU I'VE ALSO GOT SOMETHING TO OFFER OTHERS.

Anyone who would be interested in setting up a mens group with me please contct me, ANDY, on (01) 326 4773. Pref. between 10pm -12.

* * *

Send your letters, ideas, thoughts & contributions to:

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